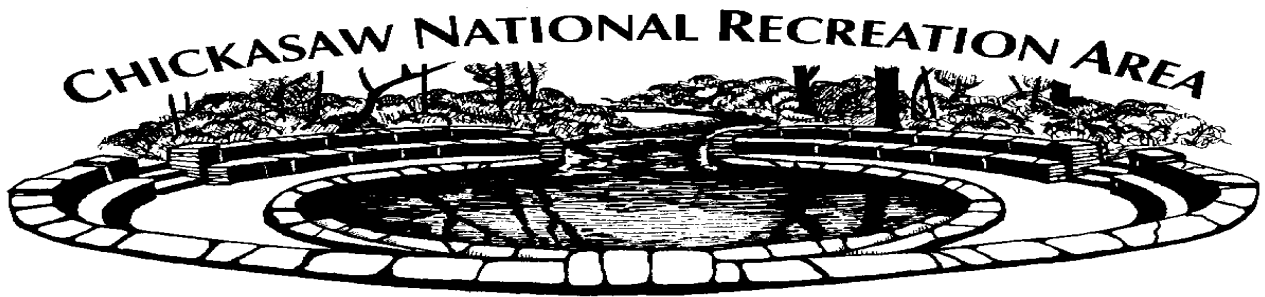




## Lesson: Water at Chickasaw



### Introduction to the Lesson/Activity

The importance of water ecology; Chickasaw National Recreational Area was originally established, as Platt National Park,

for the protection of the mineral and fresh water springs within its boundaries. Lesson for grades 3 – 5.

### Objectives

Students will:

1. learn about the history of Chickasaw National Recreation Area and efforts to protect its water resources
2. learn how a spring works

3. understand the complexity of the ground water system
4. use inquiry to lead to a better understanding of the scientific process

### Materials

Plastic baggies  
Sponges (cut in circles, with hole in center)  
Straws  
Tape  
Paper  
Pencils

Observation Sheet (to use at the spring, if walk to spring is part of lesson) worksheet  
Pitchers for water (fill on-site before student arrival)

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## Activity

1. Have students work in pairs to complete observation sheet at the spring. (5-10 min.)
2. Once everyone is finished or time is up, ask student pairs to share some of their observations. Do not ask them their questions yet.
3. RETURN TO NATURE CENTER
4. Hand out the cross section sheet and instruct students to label the parts of the spring as they are discussed.
5. Give the spring demonstration using the sponge/plastic bag model and key words: *spring, soil, aquifer*.
6. Ask what other questions they have and answer remaining questions. Ask students to use what they've just learned and tell you what they think happens to the spring if there is a drought or an extended period without much rain. Discuss the fragility of water resources.
7. Tell them that they are now going to make their own demonstration piece to teach their family and friends how the springs at the park work.
8. Students will make the demonstration spring using supplies in lesson plan "kit" box.

### Assessment:

Have students identify parts of their homemade spring. What does each part represent? They should be able to demonstrate their knowledge by using their new vocabulary words.

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## Key Vocabulary

Spring  
soil  
aquifer

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## Essential Questions

1. Where does water come from?
2. What is an aquifer?
3. What is a spring?
4. How does a spring work?
5. What is an artesian well?

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## Oklahoma Pass Standards

Grade 3- Earth/ Space Science Standard 3  
Process Standard 3

Grade 4- Earth/ Space Science Standard 4  
Science: Process Standard 3

Grade 5 - Earth/ Space Science Standard 3  
Science: Process Standard 3